

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, 11, 13, 20, and 28-30 as indicated.

Please cancel Claims 9, 12, 15-19, 22-27, 32 and 33, without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter.

1. (Currently Amended) A program controller apparatus arranged for use with a modular system, and the program controller apparatus comprising:

a memory to store:

a history of use of a hardware module of the modular system, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module, the hardware module being a customer-replaceable part; and

an agreement between a supplier and a customer; and

arranged to manage a program a program manager for use with a replaceable the hardware module of the modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the controller apparatus being arranged to manage the program manager automatically managing a program executable by the hardware module, the managing being according to [[an]] the agreement between a supplier and a customer, the agreement having terms stored within the program controller apparatus, and according to [[a]] the stored history of use of the hardware module.

2. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, at least part of the history being stored on obtained from the hardware module.

3. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1 arranged to be wherein the program manager is part of a shelf controller for managing modules in the form of cards for carrying out functions of a network element for a telecommunications network.

4. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the program controller being arranged to determine manager determining an identity of the modular system and check it is determining whether the program is authorized for use with that system.
5. (Original) The program controller of Claim 1, the history comprising a program identifier of a program previously loaded on the module.
6. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the history comprising a licensee license identifier of a program previously loaded on the module.
7. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, arranged to be the program manager being located remotely from the modular system, and being coupled to the modular system by a communications link.
8. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, arranged to maintain the program manager maintaining an inventory record of identities and relationships of modules, programs, and license information for a given customer.
9. (Cancelled).
10. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, wherein the controller program manager copies at least a part of the program to the module at initialization.
11. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, wherein the controller program manager authorizes at least a part of the program for the module at initialization.
12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently Amended) The program controller of Claim 1, the program having licensee information indicating a capability licensed, the program controller manager being arranged to configure the program according to the capability licensed.

14. (Original) The program controller of Claim 1, the program having license information indicating license expiry information.

15-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A modular system comprising:
one or more hardware modules; and
a memory storing a history of use of a hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module; and

a program controller, arranged for use with the modular system, and arranged to manage a program for use with a replaceable hardware module of the modular system, the hardware module being a customer-replaceable part, the controller being arranged to manage the program automatically, according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer, and according to [[a]] the stored history of use of the hardware module.

21. (Original) The system of Claim 20, having an interface for coupling to a remote server to pass information for a supplier to maintain an inventory of programs and modules.

22-27. (Cancelled.)

28. (Currently Amended) A method performed by a program controller apparatus of managing a program that operates upon a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the method having the steps of accessing, from a memory, a stored history of use of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of

backplanes that have used the hardware module, and controlling the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

29. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for managing a program for use with a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the apparatus having:

a memory, the memory storing a history of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module;

means for a processor, the processor accessing a stored history of use of the hardware module, and means for managing the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

30. (Currently Amended) A computer program embedded in a computer readable non-transitory storage medium, the computer program operating upon a replaceable hardware module of a modular system, the module being a customer-replaceable part, the computer program performing the steps of accessing from a memory a stored history of use of the hardware module, the stored history including a list of backplanes that have used the hardware module, and controlling the program automatically, according to the history and according to an agreement between a supplier and a customer.

31. (Original) A method of offering a communications service over a network using the system of Claim 20.

32-33. (Cancelled.)